

1. The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and The International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation.

2. Otto Neurath, President, International Foundation for Visual Education.

3. New York World's Fair, 1939, Inc.

4. Metropolitan Health Department of British Columbia, Canada.

5. New York City Cancer Committee.

6. American Medical Association.

A number of important resolutions were adopted. Some of the outstanding ones establishing Association policies may be summarized briefly as:

A resolution reiterating the attitude of the Association toward the removal of public health administration from political interference and control.

A resolution in favor of congressional appropriations for a minimum of two years for a nation-wide statistical survey of the accident problem.

A resolution supporting the development of more adequate diagnostic services for the control of syphilis.

A resolution supporting the Vinson Bill as the best procedure and organization for lessening the danger to public health from stream pollution.

A resolution pledging active support to measures which seek to secure better maternal and neonatal care.

A resolution authorizing a special committee to study the public health aspects of medical care, especially of chronic diseases.

As to Association leadership for the coming year, Dr. Arthur T. McCormack was inducted into the office of president, Mr. Abel Wolman, Professor of Sanitary Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, was named president-elect.

The 1938 annual meeting will be held in Kansas City.

**Second National Social Hygiene Day.**—"Stamp Out Syphilis—Foe of Youth," will be the theme of the second National Social Hygiene Day to be observed on February 2, 1938, in a statement sent out by the American Social Hygiene Association, 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York, New York.

Of the half-million known new cases of syphilis each year, one in five is found among young men and women under twenty years of age. More startling, perhaps, is the fact that half of all syphilis infections are contracted by individuals in the age group of twenty to thirty years, a group which represents only one-fourth of the nation's population.

In line with the youth theme, the American Social Hygiene Association is enlisting the interest of those national organizations whose primary concern is with the problems of young people. The American Youth Congress, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Parent-Teacher organizations, church and "Y" groups, service clubs, and many others, will be asked to join in special observance of the proposed program.

Many were active during the period of the First National Social Hygiene Day early this year. New cooperating organizations, impressed by the success of that pioneer venture, have come forward voluntarily to share in the task of making the second Social Hygiene Day an even greater success.

Last February's event resulted in more than 500 conferences and meetings, 135 radio periods, and a sweeping flood of newspaper and magazine comment.

Indications point to an even greater national response to the 1938 Social Hygiene Day, and all agencies and persons who have at heart the success of the campaign to stamp out syphilis are urged to join in this national endeavor to tell all the people the facts about this enemy of youth and public health and how it may be conquered.

In addition to preliminary activity for the second National Social Hygiene Day, the American Social Hygiene Association, through its National Anti-Syphilis Committee, is organizing state and local committees to assist in the appeal for \$500,000, which will enter its general solicitation phase immediately after February 2, 1938.

General John J. Pershing heads the committee, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur is vice-chairman, and Charles H. Babcock is chairman of the Executive Committee. Over two hundred leaders in the professions and business have endorsed this national appeal and have pledged themselves to aid in the fight to "stamp out syphilis."

**Press Clippings.**—Some news clippings dealing with matters related to public health activities or medical practice follow:

#### Doctors Take Syphilis Tests to Begin Drive

##### Leaders Map Distribution of 450,000 Cards

Twenty prominent physicians and social workers gave impetus to the Chicago syphilis control program on October 3 by volunteering to have blood tests made as a prelude to the city-wide distribution of 450,000 freed blood-test cards.

##### All Relievers to Get Cards

"We want it known that we believe what we preach," said Doctor Bundesen, as the others about the luncheon table signed cards expressing their willingness to submit to blood tests.

Wide distribution of the free test cards was assured by the cooperation promised by those present. Charles E. Miner, State WPA Director, and Leo M. Lyons, Chicago Relief Administrator, declared that cards would be given to all on WPA projects and on relief, and the representatives of the private charitable organizations joined with them.

Representing the private organizations were Joel D. Hunter, United Charities; Wilfred S. Reynolds, Council of Social Agencies; S. A. Goldsmith, Jewish Charities; and Father Vincent Cooke of the Catholic Charities.

##### Can Handle Five Thousand a Day

Distribution of the cards will be regulated by the Health Department on the basis of returns of blood specimens to the city and state laboratories. About five thousand specimens can be examined each day by the combined laboratory forces.

Each person receiving a card is asked to take it to a physician, who is requested to take a specimen of the subject's blood and send it to the city laboratory. The results will be reported to the physician who, in turn, will communicate them to the subject.—*Chicago Tribune*, October 14, 1937.

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#### Funds Promised for Nation-Wide Paralysis Fight

Funds will be ready next spring to help public health agencies wherever an infantile paralysis emergency occurs, Dr. Paul de Kruif, writer on medical topics and secretary of President Roosevelt's Infantile Paralysis Research Commission, announced at the annual dinner of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology last night.—*Chicago Tribune*, October 14, 1937.

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#### Social Workers Undergo Tests

##### Ninety-Four Take Examination Given in Los Angeles

One hundred and ninety-eight social workers volunteered for examinations when tests to determine their qualifications for this type of public service were conducted in Los Angeles and five other California cities recently, Harry F. Henderson, Chairman of the Board of Examiners of the California Conference of Social Workers, announced.

Miss Mary Stanton, Executive Secretary of the Los Angeles Council of Social Agencies, was in charge of the tests, which were given ninety-four candidates in this city. Sixty-four persons submitted to the tests in San Francisco, nine in San Bernardino, eight in Sacramento, and seven in Fresno.

"There are 1,513 persons registered as active social workers in California," Henderson said, "and since registrations were started a total of 1,654 persons have signed."

##### To Seek Law

Registration and examination of social workers, Henderson pointed out, is in line with the federal demands that social standards be elevated.

"It is the hope of the conference, at the next session of the legislature, that legislation will be enacted that will take over this voluntary project and make registration of social workers compulsory," he explained, "so they may have the uniform professional standing now enjoyed by other professional workers, such as teachers, doctors, and lawyers."—*Los Angeles Times*, November 14, 1937.

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#### Los Angeles County Hospital Cuts Mortality Rate

##### Reduction Since 1930 at County Institution Equals 1,800 Cases

Reductions in mortality rate at the General Hospital since 1930, in effect, added 1,800 patients to the number of recoveries in the last three fiscal years, according to medical records on file at the institution.

##### Credits Doctors

Major credit for this accomplishment belongs to the doctors of the attending staff, who donate their services to

treat indigents acutely ill, declared Rex Thomson, County Superintendent of Charities, commenting on the report.

The records show that during the three fiscal years following completion of the institution's new acute unit in December, 1933, the number of patients recovering has increased to 91.43 per cent of the total treated.

#### Progress Shown

Comparison of the medical report for 1930-1931 and the same report for 1936-1937 indicates the significant progress that has been made.

Last year 99.7 per cent of the maternity patients and 92.5 per cent of the babies born left the hospital after an average stay of 8.9 days. Seven years ago the figures were 98.4 per cent and 86.5 per cent, respectively. The average stay was 10.3 days.

Recoveries following operations have increased from 92.9 per cent to 93.8 per cent.—*Los Angeles Times*.

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#### Pacific Southwest Academy to Meet

The annual fall public meeting of the Pacific Southwest Academy, local center of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, will be held on November 22, according to announcement today by Dr. Arthur G. Coons, professor of economics and dean of the men at Occidental College, president of the group. Sessions will be held at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Abraham Epstein of New York, executive secretary of the American Association for Social Security, will speak at a dinner meeting on the subject, "Does the Social Security Act Provide Security?" The dinner meeting will be held at the Town and Gown Club on the University of Southern California Campus.—*Los Angeles Herald*, November 12, 1937.

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#### According to Prescription

What the public needs, says Dr. Salvatore P. Lucia of the University of California, speaking at the Association of American Medical Colleges convention here, is a "health coordinator, physician, psychiatrist, and confessor all in one."

We can cheer up to some extent over Doctor Lucia's words, for we seem to have something approaching his specifications. Our Doctor Geiger is a physician, of course. So far as coordinating is concerned, a health officer in San Francisco can go neither to right nor left without trampling somebody's toes. To keep his department in efficient action as Doctor Geiger does, he must be as adroit an adjuster as a mahatma dancing on red-hot eggs and Clyde Beatty lashing the lions and tigers through the flaming hoops.

On the issue of psychiatry, suffice it to say that Doctor Geiger succeeds in getting most of his essential policies through the Board of Supervisors, which calls for an understanding of the strange working of strange minds of the highest degree.

As to a confessor, they do say that the good doctor has locked in his breast some political secrets confided to his safekeeping by political transgressors upon his preserves as health officer, and who have unburdened their hearts under duress and have obtained absolution only upon penance and resolution to do better.

The secret is that Doctor Geiger keeps access open to the public prints, an arena where few gladiators care to step forth to meet him on the bloody sands.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 28, 1937.

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#### The Doctors Lead

A conclusion that intensive training pays material dividends appears certain when it is announced that doctors and lawyers lead the nation in professional incomes. Disclosure of average incomes in a group of professions also shows that engineers, dentists, architects, college teachers and journalists follow in that order.

No one works harder to attain professional standing than a doctor. He more than any other professional man meets the supreme test of reality. He must combat actual physical suffering in all its forms. And to do this he must grind and grind and subordinate his own life. Lawyers work hard, too, to attain their status, but theirs is a more academic life.

Even so, the figures of \$4,850 per year for doctors and \$4,730 for lawyers are not any too impressive. A mediocre prizefighter, as has been pointed out by moralists so often, makes much more in a single evening.

But it does seem to be a fact that concentrated effort toward a professional goal at least assures a fair income. Training thus becomes valuable by test-tube proof.—Editorial, *Los Angeles Times*, November 28, 1937.

#### Curb Indigent Influx, Cut Aid, Is Plan

A sweeping eight-point plan to reduce drastically the cost of relief in Los Angeles County through the elimination and exclusion of indigent nonresidents, had been launched today by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Alarmed at the rapid increase in relief costs which in the fiscal year 1936-1937 amounted to \$76,600,000, in this county alone, President Byron C. Hannat of the Chamber joined with F. L. S. Harman, assistant secretary, in issuing a public statement in which it was agreed:

"Los Angeles County recognizes its responsibility to care for its own residents who are in need, but does not feel obligated to take care of nonresident indigents from other states."

Pointing out that, because of legislation here, California is recognized throughout the nation as having particularly generous relief and pension laws, Assistant Secretary Harman outlined the following eight-point program which he said the Chamber would immediately urge:

1. Passage of a State exclusion law at the next session of the legislature which would provide for stationing officers at the border to exclude nonresident indigents.

2. Promote rigid enforcement of State Department of Health quarantines at the border to prevent admittance of persons afflicted with disease.

3. Insist on the right of State highway patrolmen to arrest indigents on the State highways and to charge them with vagrancy.

4. Urge the Supervisors of Los Angeles County and the Supervisors' Association to call on the Governor to use his executive power to bring into play all existing legal means of excluding indigent nonresidents.

5. Urge the Supervisors of Los Angeles County to deny relief to nonresident indigents as prescribed in a resolution of July 20, 1937.

6. Request the employers of Los Angeles County to give preference to bona fide residents of the State.

7. Carry on a continuous publicity campaign throughout the nation so that other states may be aware of California's intention to limit its relief aid to its own resident citizens.

8. Request the Federal Congress to adopt some kind of program whereby these indigents may be prevented from migrating from state to state, and that, where federal aid is necessary, it will be given in their own home state.—*Los Angeles Herald*, November 4, 1937.

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#### Dr. A. J. Cronin Assails Government Medical Control

Boston, Nov. 23.—(By International News Service).—Dr. A. J. Cronin, English physician who turned from writing medical prescriptions to authoring a best seller, today issued a new blast at his old profession and a mournful plaint for his new one.

He criticized the 450 American physicians (125 of them New Englanders) who endorsed a plan for federal control of medicine. It kills medical integrity, he declared, and makes the profession less alert.

He revealed he may bring his wife, also a physician, and his son, now only four weeks old, to America and become an American citizen.

Assailing proposed government control of medicine, Dr. Cronin, whose book revealed the alleged "fee splitting" rackets by physicians, needless operations, \$200 injections of water, and "merry-go-round" conferences of specialists, declared:

"To allow your government to control medicine is to ruin the profession. Unethical practices, which are rampant everywhere, cannot be cured by socialization of medicine.

"This would be deplorable in the United States, where the organization, progress and administration of medical science is far superior to European countries. In most European countries the physician is a Jack-of-all trades and master of none. The specialist is practically unknown."—*Los Angeles Evening Herald and Express*.

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#### United States Seizes Huge Supply of Deadly "Elixir" Drug in San Francisco

San Francisco, Nov. 13.—(International News Service).—The federal government today confiscated sixteen gallon bottles and eighty-five pints of elixir of sulfanilamide following a court ruling of Federal Judge A. F. St. Sure ordering the drug forfeited to the government.

Judge St. Sure's ruling was based on provisions of the Federal Pure Food and Drugs Act. Seizure of the drug was made on ground that it was mislabeled and failed to comply with the federal formula for elixir. Deadliness of the drug did not enter into the seizure because of limitations of the Act.

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#### Hospital Aides Pay Raise Hearing Set

Representatives of the Committee for Industrial Organization, acting on behalf of employees of Los Angeles

County General Hospital, and representatives of the American Federation of Labor, acting for truck drivers and steam-shovel operators of the county road department recently won a hearing for an increase of pay and adjustment in working conditions, before the Board of Supervisors.

Attorney A. H. Schullman, acting for the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America, a C. I. O. affiliate, asked that a report of the Bureau of Budget Research, recommending a denial of salary increases for county hospital employees, be rejected.

He stated that an increase of pay was desirable, as the cost of living has been boosted 15 per cent in Los Angeles County during the last year. . . .

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#### Red Cross Will Organize Blood Donation Unit

A volunteer blood transfusion service for Phoenix hospitals will be organized under the auspices of the Maricopa Chapter, American Red Cross, Dr. J. D. Hamer, chairman of the organization's life-saving committee, announced yesterday.

The Phoenix project will be the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River and the third in the United States. Augusta, Georgia, and New York City Red Cross chapters organized similar service groups earlier this fall, Doctor Hamer said.

"This is a community service calling for a fine type of healthy, young and middle-aged men who are willing to give their blood in cases where an emergency exists and a patient is unable to pay for the transfusion," Doctor Hamer said. "We expect to enlist a group of between seventy-five and one hundred such men, who will not be called upon oftener than four times a year, possibly not more than once, to give a pint of their blood to save the life of another."

Doctor Hamer said the volunteers would be checked to see that they are healthy and will not suffer from the loss of blood. If acceptable, they will have their blood classified as to type and grouping and given a Wassermann test.

When the lists of classes are made up, they will be placed on file at the hospitals and in the Red Cross office. The co-operation of the police department and its new ambulance is expected in bringing volunteers to the hospitals when needed, Doctor Hamer said.

"The primary purpose of the blood transfusion service is to enroll a sufficiently large number of donors to meet the demand of serving patients who are unable to pay the required fee," he added. "This service is not intended for patients able to pay. Those desiring to aid in this work should telephone or visit the chapter office in the old Chamber of Commerce building, East Van Buren Street, for additional information."—*Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, November 17, 1937.

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#### Year's Auto Toll in Los Angeles Is 881 as Three More Die

Three persons died in traffic, bringing the total of auto fatalities in city and county for the year to 881.

The dead: Mrs. Osona Cabook, 1770 West Thirty-seventh Street; Mrs. Inez Soliz, 908 Gerraghty Street; unidentified man about sixty-five.

Police also identified the body of a woman killed by a hit-and-run driver Sunday as that of Mrs. Esther Dolbear, seventy-nine, of 4719 Grammercy Place. She was struck in the 1700 block on West Forty-eighth Street.

Mrs. Cabook died in Methodist Hospital of injuries she suffered last November 6 when struck while crossing Thirty-sixth Place and Western Avenue.

Mrs. Soliz was struck last Friday. She died in General Hospital.

The unidentified man was found by the railroad tracks in the 1200 block on San Fernando Road. He had apparently been run over by a train.—*Los Angeles Examiner*, November 17, 1937.

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#### Fight Against Bubonic Plague California Finds Rats and Squirrels a Special Problem

Washington, Nov. 20—(AP).—New funds obtained under Social Security law have enabled the United States Public Health Service to increase its vigil against disease in California, but rats and squirrels are still its special problem.

Though few Californians may realize, since 1900 the California State Health Department and the Public Health Service has waged ceaseless warfare in the State against these rodent carriers of the dread bubonic plague.

#### Kept Under Check

Through poisoning, trapping, and other exterminating and control measures, likelihood of an outbreak of the contagious disease has been kept under constant check during

the past thirty-seven years, but federal officials say it still represents a very real danger to the human population of the Golden State.

So, the Service revealed today, existing funds for the use of rodent control have been augmented with earmarking of \$32,140 of the State's 1938 public allotment of \$366,823 under the Social Security Act for expenditure in dealing with this peculiar problem.

#### Other Allotments

Other portions of the allotment have been budgeted by the State health officials for various other activities, including \$59,800 for venereal disease control. Medical aid to itinerants was allotted \$20,075, and migratory nurses, \$7,400 (both new activities prompted by a growing health problem created by presence of numerous migratory workers in the State) county health administration, \$36,935; public health education, \$16,740; and bacteriological laboratories, \$7,500.

But the federal service regards rodent control as the special public health problem which interests it most.—*Los Angeles Times*.

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#### New "Radium" Discovered Synthetic Product Reduces Cost

Palo Alto, Nov. 27—(U. P.).—Dr. Paul Kirkpatrick, secretary of the local American Physical Society, announced today that a new "synthetic radium" had been discovered which cost only a fraction of the present \$100,000 rate for one gram of real radium.

The new radioactive substance will be reported on in papers by physicists experimenting in the field of atomic nuclei at a meeting of physicists at Stanford University, December 17-18, Doctor Kirkpatrick said.

He said the therapeutic values of the newly discovered substance match those of radium and that many grams of the substance can be made for a fraction of the cost of radium.—*Los Angeles Examiner*, November 28, 1937.

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#### Fund to University of California for Radium Substitute National Cancer Advisory Council Grants \$30,000 in Quest for Cyclotron Laboratory

Washington, Nov. 27—(AP).—The National Cancer Advisory Council gave official recognition today to the search for a substitute for radium in fighting cancer.

The Council announced a grant of \$30,000 to Dr. E. O. Lawrence of the University of California for use toward establishment of a cyclotron laboratory.

The cyclotron, Dr. Ludwig Hektoen of Chicago, director of the Council, explained, is an apparatus that produces radioactive substances. Doctor Hektoen and Dr. Thomas Parran, Jr., Surgeon-General of the United States, said the cyclotron might "change the whole situation" and result in more effective cancer-fighting weapons.

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#### Pension Law Test Looms Los Angeles County May Lead in Fight on Return of Liens

Possibility of Los Angeles County taking the lead in starting a lawsuit to test the validity of the new law adopted by the last Legislature, which compels the county to cancel approximately 3,000 mortgages and liens on properties taken in return for aid given in the past to elderly persons, was seen yesterday following a conference between members of the Board of Supervisors and County Counsel Mattoon.

#### Action Expected

Action relative to what course should be followed is expected to be taken by the Board of Supervisors at its meeting Tuesday.

Under the provisions of the new law all counties must cancel the mortgages and liens given in return for aid and forbids the taking of new ones in the future.

At present Los Angeles County, through its County Department of Charities, has taken about 3,000 of such mortgages and liens, amounting to approximately \$1,000,000, on property valued between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000.

#### Tremendous Cost

If a suit is filed it will be to test that part of the law which forces the cancellation of the paper taken in the past and now held by the county, according to Roger W. Jessup, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

"Liberalization of the old-age pension laws has already cost the taxpayers of the county a tremendous sum," Chairman Jessup declared. "Loss of the mortgages and liens on properties would be an added burden for them to shoulder."—*Los Angeles Times*, November 28, 1937.